

IN THE CLAIMS:

The enclosed list of claims is a complete list of all claims including those that have not been amended in the present office action.

Please add new claims 13-28.

1. A method of comprising:
receiving a call connection request message having a prefix number;
determining a corresponding IP address based on the prefix number;
assigning a label based on the corresponding IP address; and,
routing the call connection request message based on the label.
2. The method of claim 1, further including:
creating an entry in a routing table containing an IP address and a set of prefix numbers associated to the IP address, the IP address being assigned to a central office that handles calls for the set of prefix numbers.
3. The method of claim 2, further including:
transmitting an update message containing the IP address and the set of prefix numbers.
4. The method of claim 1, where the prefix number is in a format conforming to ITU E.164, representing a set of numbers having a country code portion and a national significance portion.
5. An article comprising a computer readable medium having instructions stored thereon, which when executed, causes:
receiving a call connection request message having a prefix number;

determining a corresponding IP address based on the prefix number;
assigning a label based on the corresponding IP address; and,
routing the call connection request message based on the label.

6. The article of claim 5, wherein the computer readable medium further having instructions stored thereon, which when executed, causes:

creating an entry in a routing table containing an IP address and a set of prefix numbers associated to the IP address, the IP address being assigned to a central office that handles calls for the set of prefix numbers.

7. The article of claim 6, wherein the computer readable medium further having instructions stored thereon, which when executed, causes:

transmitting an update message containing the IP address and the set of prefix numbers.

8. The article of claim 5, where the prefix number is in a format conforming to ITU E.164, representing a set of numbers having a country code portion and a national significance portion.

9. An apparatus for transporting data using label switching comprising:

a processor;

a computer readable medium having instructions stored thereon, which when executed, causes the processor to:

receive a call connection request message having a prefix number;

determine a corresponding IP address based on the prefix number;

assign a label based on the corresponding IP address; and,

route the call connection request message based on the label.

10. The apparatus of claim 9, where the computer readable medium further having instructions stored thereon, which when executed, causes the processor to:

create an entry in a routing table containing an IP address and a set of prefix numbers associated to the IP address, the IP address being assigned to a central office that handles calls for the set of prefix numbers.

11. The apparatus of claim 10, where the computer readable medium further having instructions stored thereon, which when executed, causes the processor to:

transmit an update message containing the IP address and the set of prefix numbers.

12. The apparatus of claim 9, where the prefix number is in a format conforming to ITU E.164, representing a set of numbers having a country code portion and a national significance portion.

13. (new) An apparatus, comprising:

means for receiving a call connection request message having a prefix number;

means for determining a corresponding IP address based upon the prefix number;

means for assigning a label based on the corresponding IP address; and,

means for routing the call connection request message based on the label.

14. (new) The apparatus of claim 13 further comprising means for creating an entry in a routing table containing an IP address and a set of prefix numbers associated to the IP address, the IP address being assigned to a central office that handles calls for the set of prefix numbers.

15. (new) The apparatus of claim 14 further comprising means for transmitting an update message containing the IP address and the set of prefix numbers.

16. (new) The apparatus of claim 13 further comprising means for representing a set of numbers having a country code portion and a national significance portion when the prefix number is in a format conforming to ITU E.164.

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17. (new) A method, comprising:
receiving a call connection request message having a prefix number;
determining a corresponding IP address based upon the prefix number;
assigning an MPLS label based on the corresponding IP address; and,
sending a message having the MPLS label to a network so that a request for the call can be tunneled through the network based upon said MPLS label.

18. (new) The method of claim 17 where the network further comprises an IP service layer and an ATM transport layer.

19. (new) The method of claim 18 where the call connection request message is an SS7 IAM message.

20. (new) The method of claim 18 where the prefix number is an ITU E.164 compatible prefix.

21. (new) The method of claim 17 where the call connection request message is an SS7 IAM message.

22. (new) The method of claim 17 where the prefix number is an ITU E.164 compatible prefix.

Sub B' 23. (new) An apparatus, comprising:

means for receiving a call connection request message having a prefix number;

Al means for determining a corresponding IP address based upon the prefix number;

means for assigning an MPLS label based on the corresponding IP address; and,

means for sending a message having the MPLS label to a network so that a request for the call can be tunneled through the network based upon said MPLS label.

24. (new) The method of claim 23 where the network further comprises an IP service layer and an ATM transport layer.

25. (new) The method of claim 24 where the call connection request message is an SS7 IAM message.

26. (new) The method of claim 24 where the prefix number is an ITU E.164 compatible prefix.

27. (new) The method of claim 23 where the call connection request message is an SS7 IAM message.=

28. (new) The method of claim 23 where the prefix number is an ITU E.164 compatible prefix.
